

XI.—HABITS OF THE SEESSEE PARTRIDGE (*AMMOPERDIX GRISEOGULARIS GRISEOGULARIS*).

With reference to the habits of the Seessee Partridge, as noted in the *Fauna*, I think that Stuart Baker is mistaken about the double whistle call. They are the commonest game birds here by a long way, and I have never heard it, nor have any of our men whom I have asked. The only noise I have heard them utter is a soft *chuck chuck* from one to another in the covey, and the noise from which they get their names is the *see see* noise they make with their wings as they take off—a high pitched squeak like a badly oiled bearing. Another habit of theirs is not mentioned. In the heat of the day they seem to leave the plains and go to rocky outcrops where they hide in deep cracks and crevices, always preferring these cracks to even the shadiest stones. Also when wounded they always run to the nearest hole or crack in a rock, if there is one anywhere near by. They do not hide up in the middle of the day to the same extent in the cold weather, but even unwounded birds, when frightened, will fly into a hole in a cliff, and under these circumstances I have put out seven or eight birds in the cold weather out of one rock. Protective colouration is very highly developed in these birds, and I have had ten men searching an area of bare stony sand for three or four minutes before finding a dead bird lying there back upwards. So without a dog a wounded bird out of sight is as good as lost.

Big coveys of twenty birds or so are difficult to approach, because when they disappear over a ridge they almost invariably leave a sentry; but two or three birds together practically never do this, and if one runs forward they can usually be found just below the crest of the ridge or in the nullah below.

MIRANSHAH,
N. WAZIRISTAN,
N.-W.F.P., December 1940.

T. J. PHILLIPS,
Tochi Scouts.

XII.—CURIOUS NESTING SITE OF THE RED-WATTLED LAPWING (*LOBIVANELLUS INDICUS INDICUS* BODD.)

(With a photo)

Mr. K. Bocker sent me a couple of photographs of a Red-wattled Lapwing's nest which had been placed 'on a heap of ballast between two railway tracks in Ghosrana Station yard (Alwar State)'. The nest contained three eggs. Mr. Bocker commenting on the behaviour of the bird wrote, 'Every time a train came in the bird flew up, only to return to its domestic duties immediately the train left.' The photographs were taken early in September.

The position of the nest between two frequently used railway tracks, and in a station yard, is certainly rather unusual for a bird which is generally very careful to hide its nesting position. Another point of interest is that this lapwing generally has its nest